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ExeterAreaGardenClub.org

The Newsletter of the Exeter Area Garden Club

March/April 2012

Don't Forget- Annual Pot Swap at March 15th meeting
>>>> Check our website for Promise Tree Updates <<<<<
http://www.exeterareagardenclub.org/Promise_Tree.html

President's Message

LuAnn Faber

Hello Gardeners,



It's March already! This winter seems to be passing by exceptionally quickly. I attribute it to the mild weather and lack of snow. But realistically, it's probably due to my advancing age. *Everything* is passing by rapidly these days, especially the New England growing season.

Patti Elwell inspired me to request a portable greenhouse for Christmas. Patti has a spacious, new greenhouse with lots of shelves and plenty of room for her ambitious gardening projects. My greenhouse, on the other hand, is the petite model – just four shelves, which will be more than enough to introduce me to the agony & ecstasy of starting my own plants. I'll keep you posted on my success (or more likely, failures.)

This is the time of year to get reinvigorated by flower shows. I'm going with a group from our club to the Portland Flower Show this week (compliments of the Promise Tree.) Other members have plans to check out various shows in the area. Check the Calendar of Events in this newsletter for more information. By now, most of us have had a chance to page through the plant catalogs, compiling a wish list of green things that our gardens just can't be without. I hope to see a few of my must-haves in bloom in Portland.

We've got fun activities and good information scheduled for this spring's general meetings. I'm looking forward to the Pot Swap on March 15th; I love a good treasure hunt! And I'm waiting with bated breath to hear "Dr. Tomato" in April. Maybe he can tell me how to deal with the late blight that finishes off my tomatoes every summer. And we can depend on the interesting and tasty exhibits provided at each meeting by Herb Committee and Environment & Conservation.

Lastly, we're trying something new this summer. It seems odd to some people that a garden club doesn't meet during the gardening season – in the summer. So this year, we'll be meeting informally in July and August --no speaker-- just conversation and an exchange of information. (It goes without saying that food will also be present.) Watch your next newsletter for dates and times.

Happy Spring!
LuAnn

No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow. ~ Proverb



The Environment and Conservation Committee urges all members to bring their unwanted garden and planting materials to our second annual **POT SWAP**. It will be held at the general meeting on Thursday, March 15th. Bring any pots, vases, planters, garden tools, design accessories, garden art, gardening books, etc. that you are tired of looking at in your garage and home. And take what you can't live without. All leftovers will be properly disposed of.

Applications for our 2012 Mini-Grants program are available from Betsy (734-2586), LuAnn (772-5362), Jill (772-3239) or online at our website. Completed applications are due back by April 1st. Amounts awarded will be \$50-\$200.

In April, our committee will be presenting information on frogs and toads. Will there be a quiz? Perhaps

See you at the meetings!

INSPIRED BY THE FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Jill and Betsy's poison quiz was so much fun that I was inspired to refresh my memory about the plant that allegedly did in Socrates. The hemlock, *Tsuga canadensis*, so typical of our northern woodlands, is not the same as poison hemlock, *Conium maculatum*, and a plant native to the Mediterranean region, which has naturalized widely. In North America it has been declared an invasive species in 12 states. It can be seen right here in Rockingham County. For a brief description and photos see <http://www.nhptv.org/wild/poisonhemlock.asp>. Like so many poisonous plants, *Conium* (colorful common names include Devil's Porridge and Beaver Poison) can be therapeutic in the proper dose. Thank you, Wikipedia.

If Liz Barbour's charming dooryard garden in Hollis has inspired you to have fun with edible landscaping, combining edibles and ornamentals, hasten to the nearest library, bookstore, or computer and check out the writing of Rosalind Creasy. Her website, <http://www.rosalindcreasy.com/edible-garden-how-to/>, is full of ideas, plant lists, and very inspiring photos. Since I go away for the summer (where my garden is shady) I do not do much edible gardening here in Stratham, but I do have herbs throughout my garden and have planted some fruiting shrubs. In the late spring I can't resist planting out some kale, mesclun mix, and arugula. We enjoy enough arugula to jazz up late spring salads and frittatas, then when September arrives we get a bonus – the spring planting sets seed in the summer heat and then sprouts so that we harvest arugula past frost.

NEW PLANT HARDINESS ZONES

Though Creasy gardens in California, her designs and plant lists can be used in our zone. Speaking of which, the USDA has just published a new Plant Hardiness Zone Map, based on data collected from 1976 through 2005. See it and play with its interactive features at <http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/>.



The map confirms what you may have observed – we are now living in Zone 6a (average annual minimum temperature -10 to -5) instead of 5b (-15 to -10). While the good news is that this extends our plant palette, the bad news is climate change is likely affecting our gardens, and the pests and diseases that plague them, in ways that we are just beginning to discover.

MAKE NEW PLANTS

As the days lengthen and the sun strengthens it is a good time to think about taking cuttings or divisions of houseplants. On my kitchen windowsill the scented geraniums are stretching toward the light with new growth that soon will be ideal for cutting and rooting. Look around your indoor garden and see if you can make some new plants

It is never too soon to be thinking ahead to the June plant auction!

Becky Mitchell

HORTICULTURAL MOMENT

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the cherry blossoms in Washington DC.

Cherry blossom pictures, Washington, DC, Copyright 2002, Randall Wingett, All Rights Reserved

Cherry Blossoms - Jefferson Memorial 010404-25



Randall Wingett

Cherry Blossoms I010404-22



Randall Wingett

Cherry Blossoms - Washington Memorial 010404-23



Randall Wingett



Randall Wingett

Randall Wingett

Horticultural Moment by Terri Donsker

Design

Donna Wilson & Connie Gilmore

The spring design class will be held on Wednesday April 4 from 2 - 4PM at the Exeter Senior Center. We will make a centerpiece using fresh flowers and ribbon accents. The design committee will provide white baskets with liners and oasis for \$3-5, which will be collected the day of class. Participants will purchase flowers and ribbon to match their color scheme. A list of suggested flowers will be sent via email prior to class. Remember to bring clippers and scissors!



Items of Interest



Members, we have again been invited to tour the Fox Rhododendron garden in North Andover. The date will be announced as soon as possible.

Photo by Terri Donsker

The Newfields' Garden Club and the Great Bay Discovery Center would like to invite you to a program on Beautiful Backyard Habitats: Landscaping for Wildlife on Wednesday April 4, 7 PM at the Great Bay Discovery Center in Greenland, NH (89 Depot Rd.). Marilyn Wyzga, Wildlife Educator for the NH Fish and Game Department and author of Homes for Wildlife will show how you can enhance your backyard habitat for birds, butterflies and a variety of wildlife using native vegetation and water features. Planning, plant suggestions, and wildlife habitat concepts will be discussed. The program is free and open to the public, and refreshments will be served.

The NH Master Gardener Association & the UNH Cooperative Extension are sponsoring the Welcome Spring Symposium '12 on Sat., March 31, 8 am to 3:45, at the Grappone Center in Concord, NH. This year's theme is "Flavorful Landscapes." The symposium includes a keynote address by Melinda Myers, TV & radio personality and writer for *Backyard Living*, *Better Homes & Gardens*, and *Fine Gardening*. Also available is a choice of 3 sessions from a menu of 9 workshops, vendors, continental breakfast and buffet lunch. Cost is \$56 for a NHMGA member, \$66 for a non-member. Registration deadline is March 24. More information available is available at:

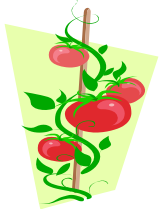
<http://extension.unh.edu/fhgec/documents/brochure.pdf>.

March 15th - Linda Zukas and Cynthia Cary present "Planning for a Great Garden"

Zukas and Cary enjoy many years of hands-on experience at Churchill's Garden Center in Exeter. Zukas graduated from the Thompson School at UNH in Horticulture and has worked at Churchill's in many capacities for twenty-three years. Presently she is Annuals Manager. Cary achieved Master Gardener through the UNH Cooperative Extension and is now Perennials Manager. Their presentation will illustrate how to put forethought into planning a home, business or adopted garden spot. Displays of colorful flowers and plants will provoke the sense of spring. A surprise will await the lucky member or guest!

April 19th - David "Dr. Tomato" O'Connor presents "Successful Gardening 101"

David O'Connor from Barrington New Hampshire is a graduate of Dartmouth College. David's background as a scientist and horticulturist enabled him to design the Healthy Home Harvest greenhouse. He implemented simple techniques to improve the energy efficiency of an existing greenhouse operation or the commitment to a fully solar operation. He is a consultant on many scientific groups and commercial growers. He will discuss successful gardening techniques from preparing and evaluating your soil, composting, proper fertilization, watering, seed chokes, starting and growing seedlings, overcoming garden diseases, pests and enhancing season extension and answer all questions concerning flowers and vegetables.



Ways & Means

Dianna Thompson

Remember to 'shop' the Promise Tree at each monthly meeting. We have new additions and with the arrival of spring, I'm sure there will be many new ideas and wonderful offerings. Everyone is having such fun, learning new skills and nurturing friendships. What could be better? Oh yes, and also helping our great EAGC. Please be thinking about what your 'promise' could be.



Thanks, Dianna

Membership

Susan Canada & Mimi Brett

Membership renewals will be available at the April general meeting. All members are encouraged to get involved in one or more committees.

*When the winds of March are wakening the crocuses and crickets,
Did you ever find a fairy near some budding little thickets,...
And when she sees you creeping up to get a closer peek
She tumbles through the daffodils, a playing hide and seek.
~ Marjorie Barrows*



Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 10, 2012, Saturday – 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Wentworth Greenhouses, Rollinsford	Winter Farmers' Market
March 15, 2012, Thursday - 9:30 a.m. at Stratham Community Church	Coffee & General Meeting Program "Planning for a Great Garden" Annual Pot Swap
March 17, 2012, Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Wentworth Greenhouses, Rollinsford	Winter Farmers' Market
March 24, 2012, Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Wentworth Greenhouses, Rollinsford	Winter Farmers' Market
March 31, 2012, Saturday 8 a.m. – 3:45 Grappone Cntr in Concord, NH	NH Master Gardener Assn & UNH Coop Extension Symposium 2012: "Welcome Spring" More details in this newsletter under "Items of Interest"
April 4, 2012, Wednesday 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. at Exeter Senior Center	EAGC Spring Design Class
April 4, 2012, Wednesday 7 p.m. at Great Bay Discovery Center, Greenland, NH	Newfields Garden Club & Great Bay Discovery Cntr Program: "Beautiful Backyard Habitats: Landscaping for Wildlife" Marilyn Wyzga, Wildlife Educator for the NH Fish & Game Dept. & author of, "Homes for Wildlife"
April 14, 2012, Saturday – 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Exeter High School	Winter Farmers' Market
April 19, 2012, Thursday 9:30 a.m. at Stratham Community Church	Coffee & General Meeting Program: "Successful Gardening 101" David O'Connor aka "Dr. Tomato"
April 28, 2012, Saturday – 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Exeter High School	Winter Farmers' Market

Upcoming New England Flower Shows

[Portland Flower Show](#)

"Celebration!"

Portland Company Complex,
Portland, Maine
March 7–11, 2012

[Boston Flower & Garden Show](#)

"First Impressions: Adding WOW Factor to
Outdoor Spaces"

Seaport World Trade Center
Boston, Mass.
March 14–18, 2012

[Northern New England Home, Garden & Flower Show](#)

Fryeburg Fairgrounds
Fryeburg, Maine
May 18–20, 2012

[Newport Flower Show](#)

"SALSA!"

Rosecliff
Newport, R.I.
June 22–24

This newsletter was edited by Hazel Reed-Goldstein. The next DIG THIS will be sent in early May, 2012.

All submissions for that newsletter are due by May 7th

To join the Exeter Area Garden Club, please print this membership application and mail it with dues to the address below.

Exeter Area Garden Club
Membership Registration
2011/2012

www.ExeterAreaGardenClub.org

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Town: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Committee sign-up:

Requirement of membership – see our website at
(http://exeterareagardenclub.org/Page_2_F2LR.html) for details.

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Awards | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality | <input type="checkbox"/> Program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civic Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Horticulture | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Design | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Ways & Means |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environment & Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Website | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Herbs | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Yearbook |

Level:

Single Membership \$25 Couple Membership \$30

If you have any questions, please call membership co-chairs:
Susan Canada: 772-3876 or Mimi Brett: 770-3405

Please make checks out to Exeter Area Garden Club and mail with your completed registration form to:

Susan Canada
47 Bunker Hill Ave
Stratham, NH 03885